

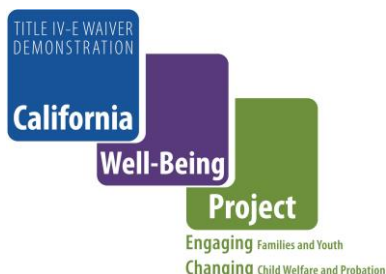


TITLE IV-E CALIFORNIA WELL-BEING PROJECT

Q3 (April - June 2015) Activities

Overview: Title IV-E Waiver Demonstration Program

A Pathway to State and National Reform to Improve Child Welfare Outcomes



California is one of [30 states and/or jurisdictions](#) participating in the [Title IV-E Waiver Demonstration Program](#) to improve outcomes in the areas of safety, permanency, and well-being.

Actions and Updates

Federal:

- Sen. Ron Wyden (D-Ore.) introduced a [bill](#) that would allow states to seek reimbursement for services aimed at keeping kids with biological parents or kin, or returning them to those homes in short order.
- Senators Michael Bennet (D-CO) and Michael Crapo (R-ID) introduced the [All Kids Matter Act](#) which would allow states to use existing federal funding for evidence based prevention efforts to protect kids before they experience an abusive or neglectful situation that may require foster care.

State Implementation:

- The Project team submitted the [Initial Development and Implementation Report](#) (IDIR) on May 26, 2015. The Children's Bureau and James Bell Associates (JBA) shared their feedback on June 29, and are currently reaching out to Project counties and internal partners to address questions.
- CDSS and Project counties convened with Children's Bureau, Administration for Children and Families (ACF) and James Bell Associates (JBA) to discuss the Theory of Change on June 4-5, 2015.

Evaluation:

- CDSS posted the RFP in BidSync, accepted five bids for review, formed an RFP Evaluation Panel and coordinated RFP review sessions.
- The Project team facilitated a meeting with the UC Davis Center for Human Services to discuss SOP evaluation and performance tools.
- CDSS held Evaluation Steering Committee calls to discuss state-wide evaluation process.

Project Management: The Project team partnered with Casey Family Programs and i.e. communications to develop a comprehensive communications plan that will accomplish multiple objectives at both a state and national level. Below are several top-line learnings gained after conducting interviews with four of the waiver counties:

What's working:

- The waiver work has strengthened the relationships between Child Welfare and Probation. The counties all reported strong support for the waiver within their teams, across CW and Probation, and with community partners.
- There is general agreement that the focus on SOP and wrap-around was the right approach

What could be improved:

- More time in person with their cross-county waiver peers.
- Counties expressed strong interest in knowing more about the evaluation process.
- The Counties expressed the importance of timely and responsive communications from the State.

Areas for potential communications support

- A turnkey communications tool.
- Creation of (online) access tools and tips from other counties.
- Ideas and support in engaging a broader external community in support of the waiver.

Implementation Highlight

A key component of California's implementation of the Title IV-E Waiver Project is [Safety Organized Practice \(SOP\) and the Core Practice Model \(CPM\)](#). To bring a better understanding of the practices associated with successful implementation, we will be covering different perspectives of SOP/CPM implementation. The next section summarizes discussions with implementing counties, the convenings with Child Welfare Service representatives, and the two-day convening with representatives from ACF and JBA.

What are the core components of SOP/CPM that are being implemented by all waiver demonstration Counties?

- SOP/CPM incorporates a trauma-informed lens and trauma philosophies and follows foundational practices including solution-focused interviewing, appreciative inquiry, and cultural humility.
- SOP is informed by solution-focused practice, signs of safety, structured decision making, child and family engagement, risk and safety assessment research, group supervision and interactional supervision, appreciative inquiry, motivational interviewing, consultation and information sharing framework, cultural humility and trauma-informed practice.
- The CPM is a framework for integrated practice in child welfare and mental health agencies, service providers and community/tribal partners working with youth and families. The CPM includes engagement, assessment, service planning and implementation, monitoring and adapting, and transition components.
- SOP/CPM emphasizes strategies that assist workers in teaming with families to gather information about reported concerns and needs, evaluating the relevance of that information, identifying strengths and community resources, and safety planning.

- The SOP/CPM critical elements are pivotal as workers seek to team with families in developing behaviorally based case plans outlining specific behaviors that will keep children safe.
- The SOP/CPM critical elements include capturing a child's voice, whenever possible; monitoring and adapting safety plans and assisting families in transition and after care planning. The model includes coaching to support and assist workers in thinking critically, developing learning objectives, and improving their skills.

County Corner

Butte County is changing the way families and community members think of child welfare

Butte County has been working to implement the SOP framework since 2010. The waiver enables the expansion of their work to new populations. "One of the reasons we joined the waiver project was the opportunity to put additional focus on serving historically underserved populations, including kin and relative caregivers and high needs families in ways we had not traditionally," said Shelby Boston, Assistant Director of the Department of Employment and Social Services.

Their "grassroots" approach aims for Butte County families to understand that child welfare's main goal is to proactively keep the family together. The County encourages families to seek out resources and services offered by the waiver.

A strong partnership between the Child Welfare and Probation departments is helping to serve new populations in a more comprehensive way with the waiver.

Ultimately, their community wants to know more, and through additional information, can gain an enhanced perception of the Child Welfare and Probation Departments.



CDSS WELL-BEING PROJECT CONTACT INFORMATION

California Department of Social Services
744 P Street, MS8-11-86
Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 651-6600
IV-EWaiver@dss.ca.gov